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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: IAEA REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 29708; (B) IAEA VIENNA 1170; (C) IAEA
VIENNA 2053; (D) IAEA VIENNA 3174; (E) IAEA VIENNA 10557

1. MISSION WILL RECALL FROM REF. A INSTRUCTIONS TO
U.S. DEL. TO FEBRUARY 10-11 MEETING VIENNA ON SUBJECT
STUDY THAT USG EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO SEE STUDY PRO-
CEED ON A SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD ENABLE AGENCY PRODUCE AN
EARLY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT BY END OF 1976 AND A
FINAL REPORT IN TIME FOR 1977 SALZBURG CONFERENCE. THIS
TIME SCHEDULE WAS ACCEPTABLE TO MECKONI AND TO OTHER
PARTICIPANTS AT FEBRUARY MEETING. IN REPORT OF FEBRUARY
MEETING (REF. B), MISSION REFERRED TO CONCERN OF U.S.
PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING THAT AGENCY MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY
IN MEETING ABOVE SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN SUB-
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AREAS OF STUDY WHICH DEPENDED PRIMARILY ON SINGLE STAFF

MEMBER.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS IS NOW BEING MADE ON THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF STUDY (DEPT. HAS RECEIVED THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON "INSTITUTIONAL-LEGAL FRAMEWORK ASPECTS"), WE CONCUR WITH MISSION ANALYSIS OF REF. C THAT

THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT IN ANY OF THE OTHER ELEVEN STUDY AREAS. FURTHER, COMPARISON OF THE AGENCY PROPOSED WORK SCHEDULES OF 9 FEB AND 29 MARCH AND REF. D SHOW SLIPPAGES IN ALL AREAS EXCEPT INSTITUTIONAL/LEGAL. SUCH SLIPPAGES IN THE VERY EARLY PHASES OF A STUDY ARE UNDERSTANDABLE; HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH SLIPPAGES ARE STILL IN INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE PHASES OF SUB-STUDY AREAS, THE AGENCY STUDY WAS ACTUALLY INITIATED IN LATE SUMMER 1975.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES MISSION EFFORTS IN OBTAINING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF. D, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT MORE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED. USG (AND, MOST PROBABLY, OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS) NEED EARLY INFORMATION ON ALL THE PARTICULAR SUB-AREAS OF EXPERTISE OR HIGH-LEVEL OVERALL COMPETENCE NEEDED TO COMPLIMENT AND/OR SUPPLEMENT AGENCY STAFF AND CONSULTANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG THESE CONSULTANTS WILL BE NEEDED.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, USG IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH THE DEMONSTRATED SLOW PACE OF STUDY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ITS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PHASES. DEPT. REQUESTS MISSION TO AGAIN REFLECT TO MECKONI AND CATLIN THE STRONG USG INTEREST IN THE AGENCY STUDY, OUR CONCERN FOR ITS COMPLETION ON A TIMELY BASIS, AND OUR IMPRESSION THAT EVIDENCE OF NECESSARY MOVEMENT TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE TIMELY CONCLUSION HAS TO DATE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

5. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT AGENCY SHOULD BE URGED TO COMPLETE THE SCHEDULE (STARTED IN REF. D) IMMEDIATELY SHOWING PROPOSED STUDY MEETINGS AND CONSULTANTS DESIRED
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FROM ALL COUNTRIES. THE SCHEDULE SHOULD COVER THE BALANCE OF CALENDAR YEAR. THIS ACTION COULD REINFORCE THRUST OF STUDY (AS PER REF. D) AND ALSO ALLOW MEMBER STATES INVOLVED TO PLAN THE USE OF THEIR DOMESTICALLY VALUABLE EXPERT RESOURCES IN A MANNER WHICH COULD MORE EASILY ACCOMMODATE THE REMAINDER OF AGENCY STUDY MEETINGS. THIS LATTER POINT IS A CRUCIAL ONE IN VIEW OF OUR OWN HEAVY COMMITMENTS FOR KEY EXPERTS WHO WILL ALSO BE

NEEDED FOR THE IAEA MEETINGS.

6. WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING STEPS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE SLOW PACE OF SUBJECT STUDY. IN THIS CONNECTION, AND TO ASSIST IN OUR OWN PLANNING EFFORTS, USG AGENCIES CLOSELY FOLLOWING AGENCY STUDY HAVE PREPARED THEIR OWN ESTIMATES (BASED ON REF. D, THE DRAFT MATERIAL EARLIER PROVIDED TARDIFF AND MOSS AND, MORE RECENTLY, MCNEILL)

ON EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. EXPERTS WILL BE NEEDED BY AGENCY DURING REMAINDER CY 1976. IF AGENCY STUDY IS TO ACHIEVE MOMENTUM IN REMAINDER CY 1976 AS INITIALLY PLANNED, AND AS USG DESIRES, WE FORESEE DEMAND FOR AT LEAST 30-40 SEPARATE U.S. EXPERT TRIPS IN VARIOUS SUB-AREAS OF STUDY, REQUIRING ABOUT \$50,000 IN BALANCE CY 1976 (ESTIMATED 19 TRIPS FY76, 8 TRIPS TRANSITION PERIOD, 8 TRIPS OCT-DEC 1976).

7. FURTHER, CONCERNING IAEA PLANS FOR UTILIZING SPECIAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000, WE UNDERSTAND FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MISSION THAT AGENCY WILL USE PORTIONS OF THIS CONTRIBUTION TO COVER TRAVEL AND PER DIEM COSTS OF SOME REQUESTED U.S. EXPERTS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ALL SUCH EXPERTS WILL BE SO COVERED. AS WE REVIEW THE PROJECTIONS, WE ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE HEAVY AGENCY CONSULTANT REQUESTS THAT CANNOT BE WHOLLY COVERED BY EXISTING USG PROGRAMS WHICH DID NOT, AT THE TIME THEY WERE DEVELOPED, ANTICIPATE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGIONAL CENTER STUDY.

8. WE CONCUR IN MISSION RATIONALE AS SET FORTH PARA 4, REF. E REGARDING RETENTION OF \$147,000 (AS A PORTION OF THE \$300,000 WHICH WE CONSIDERED MAKING AVAILABLE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CY 1976 FOR THE REGIONAL CENTERS STUDY). FOR REASONS SET FORTH PARA 6 ABOVE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT A PORTION OF THESE FUNDS, INITIALLY \$15,000, MUST BE SET ASIDE AT THIS TIME TO COVER COST-FREE U.S. EXPERTS NEEDED IN VERY NEAR FUTURE FOR IAEA STUDY MEETINGS BUT WHO WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT BE COVERED BY IAEA OR OTHER U.S. FUNDS. USG AGENCIES WILL, OF COURSE, ENDEAVOR TO MAKE AVAILABLE EXPERTS FROM THEIR OWN TRAVEL FUNDS WHEN POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, AS THE AGENCY STUDY PROGRESSES WE MUST REALIZE THAT IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO USE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THIS SAME SOURCE, DEPENDING ON FISCAL YEAR LIMITATIONS ON USG AGENCIES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE IAEA IS ABLE TO COVER REQUIRED U.S. EXPERTS. MATTER WOULD, OF COURSE, BE RAISED WITH MISSION AS NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE ABOVE PROPOSAL (PARA 8) IS ENTIRELY

SUPPORTIVE OF THE STRONG U.S. POSITION ON THE REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY AND WILL ENABLE US TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE IN A TIMELY MANNER IN MEETING URGENT AGENCY REQUESTS FOR NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.

9. IN LINE WITH COMMENTS EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5

ABOVE, USG VERY ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE SOONEST AGENCY'S

(1) PROJECTED NEEDS FOR ALL EXPERTS DURING NEXT

SEVERAL MONTHS FOR OUR IMMEDIATE PLANNING PURPOSES, AND

(2) SIMILAR PLANS FOR SUBSEQUENT PERIOD ON A TIMELY BASIS.

WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST MISSION VIEWS ON ABOVE

PROPOSAL, REESTABLISHMENT OF COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS

RESERVE AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO TIMING ON INFORMING

IAEA OF THIS ADDITIONAL U.S. CY 1976 SUPPORT OF THE

REGIONAL CENTERS STUDY. KISSINGER

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